

NARRATIVE  
OF  
A VOYAGE ROUND THE  
WORLD,

DURING THE YEARS 1835, 36, AND 37;

INCLUDING  
A NARRATIVE OF  
AN EMBASSY TO THE SULTAN OF MUSCAT  
AND THE KING OF SIAM.

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IN TWO VOLUMES.

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1838.

Amongst the numerous Arabs who daily visited the ship, was Halil bin Hammet, son of the late governor of Zanzibar. Halil is about fourteen years of age, and is looked on as a youth of very wild and eccentric habits. He was usually accompanied by two handsome Bedouin soldiers, whom he appeared to have attached to himself, either by kind treatment or generosity. Halil generally dressed in white, with a girdle of cloth of gold, beneath which was a leathern belt filled with beautifully chased silver chargers, each having a stopper secured by a chain of the same metal. He wore a turban that showed him to belong to the tribe of the Sultan, and his khunger was richly ornamented with gold. In these chargers he had some very coarse gunpowder; but getting a sight of some of excellent quality, he importuned every officer for "barouta"—gunpowder, and when he obtained any, he emptied a charger into a paper to receive that which was presented to him. He ran from one part of the ship to another, examining every thing, but was much more interested by viewing various kinds of arms, than any thing else. He visited us daily, and managed at each visit to get three or four of his chargers filled with gunpowder; his first attempt to obtain it was by a demand, and when a small quantity was offered, he refused it with great indignation. Finding, however, this

plan unsuccessful, he assumed an humble manner, and petitioned for "barouta," in most courteous and winning tones. To all appearance, he freely parted with his khunger, but asked for it when about to depart; yet he sold his turban off his head, to a gentleman on board, and supplied its place on the spot with his girdle.

Amongst various articles brought on board for sale, were khungers and swords, some of which were of Persian manufacture, but most of them were made in England for this market. The attar of roses, and of jasmine flowers, were brought off in considerable quantities, but neither of them is manufactured in Arabia; they are brought from Constantinople, both by way of the Red Sea, and over land to Persia, and down the Euphrates, and thus find their way to all parts of India, being articles much used by the wealthy every where in the East.

The officers were invited to dine with the Sultan, on the second of October. At four o'clock P.M., the Ouâli, with Captain Calfaun, came on board, in three boats, each manned by from eight to twelve Lascars, sailors from the coast of Malabar, and carried Commodore Kennedy, Captain Stribling, Mr. Roberts, and a large number of the officers on shore, and conducted them to the palace. We entered a part of the building still

unfinished, and, passing through a small court, in the centre of which was a lime tree (every green leaf is remarkable in this sun-scorched capital), ascended flights of wooden stairs, which terminated in an open court on the third floor. Here we were met by the Sultan and his two sons, arrayed as we had first seen them; and each of them shaking us individually by the hand, we entered an unfurnished hall or anteroom which opened upon the court. Numerous servants, dressed in white, wearing richly mounted khungers in their girdles of cloth of gold, were on either hand, standing respectfully without their sandals. They saluted us with the graceful Arab salàm, as we passed into the dining-hall.

This apartment is plain in its appearance. The walls have several flat recesses a foot deep, crossed by shelves, on which were placed a variety of cut glass, and French porcelain. At the upper end of the room hung prints of the naval engagements between the U. S. Ship Constitution, and H. B. M. Ship Guerriere, and between the U. S. Ship United States, and H. B. M. Ship Macedonian. Several mirrors and prints were suspended upon the side walls. The floor was covered with Persian rugs. The dinner was already spread before us, upon three tables, which were not uniform, either in height or dimensions, and therefore

joined badly; shawls of camel's hair served as table-cloths, and the whole decoration was befitting a ball supper.

As soon as we had assembled near the table, His Highness stated that on such occasions as the present it was not his custom to sit at table, but to retire and leave his guests to unrestrained enjoyment; nevertheless, if we desired it, he would conform to our fashion. Mr. Roberts replied that it was not our wish to break through any of the usages of our Arab friends, and though His Highness were absent, we should not forget him. The Sultan then salamed and withdrew. We took our seats, and the Ouâli and Captain Calfaun joined the servants in waiting, apparently emulous to exceed them in polite attention, and the duties of their place.

The dinner was served on white porcelain, and the knives and forks were from our own messes on board, the Arabs seldom requiring any other instruments than their fingers, wherewith to despatch their food. The repast spread before us, which was cold, and abundant in quantity, consisted of two sheep, stuffed with dates, prunes, and cajoo nuts, and roasted whole; fowls, dressed and cooked in a similar manner; joints of roast meat; several kinds of sweetmeats; rice, dressed with sugar and turmeric, resembling curry in

appearance ; lozenge-shaped cakes, an inch thick, made of milk and rice, some white, some yellow ; sweet cakes or bread, an inch thick, and of the size of a plate ; mangoes, from Barhein ; grapes ; custard-apples (*annona squamosa*), &c. Different sorts of sherbet, lemonade, and new milk, were the only fluids upon the table. All these good things were so crowded and mingled together, that it required considerable tact to extricate safely a selected dish from amongst its many neighbours. It was truly a temperance feast, and most things were very much to our taste and satisfaction.

At the close of the banquet, coffee was served in china cups, supported in stands of cut glass, each stand holding three cups. After this, Captain Calfaun and a slave took the handkerchief of each guest, and poured upon it a plentiful supply of attar of roses. They were followed by a slave, bearing a golden *arrosoir*, in the shape of a Florence flask, having a long neck and perforated extremity, like that of a watering-pot, with which he dashed a quantity of rose water where the attar had been poured. This done, the Sultan entered, and remarked that we had partaken so sparingly of the feast that he thought it would be well to send the remains of it on board ship.

We took leave of His Highness and the two princes, at the head of the stairs, and were accom-

panied to the boats by the governor and Captain Calfaun.

On Monday the 5th of October, His Highness, accompanied by one of his sons and Captain Calfaun, visited the ship. He was received with a salute of twenty-one guns, and manned yards ; and on his taking leave, which he did at the end of half an hour, the same ceremony was repeated. On landing, he requested Lieutenant C. C. Turner, who commanded the boat which carried the Sultan on shore, to wait a few minutes that he might send him a present from the palace. Mr. Turner expressed his acknowledgments for the Sultan's professed kindness, but at the same time explained to him that the constitutional law of our country forbade all its officers to receive presents from any sovereign or prince.